

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2016**

I. OATH OF OFFICE

The Town Clerk gave the oath of office to the members of the Town Council: Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich.

II. CALL TO ORDER

The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, in the Selectmen's Chamber.

III. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIR

The Town Clerk called for nominations for election of Town Council Chair.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council elect Mark Zacchio as Town Council Chairman. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor. Mr. Zacchio abstained.

Chairman Zacchio thanked the Council and is lucky to be serving with such great people in the Town of Avon across all Boards. He looks forward to another two years and hopefully accomplishing some good for the Town as we always try to do.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Town Clerk.

V. PUBLIC HEARING: None

VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: December 3, 2015
December 7, 2015 Special Meeting

A correction to the December 3, 2015 Meeting minutes was made as follows:
On page 10, 2nd paragraph, 11th line, change "natural" to "national."

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the December 3, 2015 Meeting as amended.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor. Mr. Speich abstained.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the December 7, 2015 Special Meeting as submitted.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor. Mr. Speich abstained.

VII. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Nancy Weiner-Anstey, 3 Copplestone, Avon Day Committee Chair, reported on results from Avon Day 2015 held on Saturday, September 26, 2015 from the Committee's Final Report to the Town Council (a copy of which is included and made part of these minutes). Mrs. Maguire commented that Avon Day was great; she was there at the end of the day and there were still a lot of people walking around. She noted that the Committee did a great job and thanked them for their hard work. Chairman Zacchio commented that the whole process of Avon Day cannot happen without the Committee and its hard work and thanked them for doing it again and willing to do it next year; it is a labor of love and huge work effort. He noted that the Committee made some interesting changes last year in terms of booths and sponsorships and asked how that worked. He added that he hopes the Committee is back in front of us talking about some of the issues had and ideas to increase the presence and the Council is certainly willing to help. Ms. Weiner-Anstey responded that they only had a few people selling things and did not detract from Avon Day. She noted that the volunteer problem seems to be growing over the last few years. She added that restaurants are having difficulty because the percentage that they get is low and still have to pay for their staff to come so they are not willing because they are not making enough. She noted the same for corporate entities that have to pay their staff. She commented that the Committee's suggestion was to drop the price and maybe they would be more willing to come. Chairman Zacchio commented that it is a big commitment, a lot of work, and anything that brings out folks in Avon to give them an opportunity to be together as a community is good but as you are making a donation to the Special Needs Fund it is imperative that we continue to do that and the Council will work with the Committee in any way that they can to help you increase the presence or do whatever you think is necessary to keep Avon Day successful. He noted that on the volunteer a suggestion might be to incorporate some of the volunteer opportunities for kids in the school district and if there is a way to connect that into the educational cycle of giving back to your community. Ms. Howard commented that there is the National Honor Society where students are required to complete hours of community service and L.E.A (young rotary club). Ms. Weiner-Anstey responded that their volunteers for the inflatables are high school kids and are getting credit for their service. A member of the Board of Education recommended a town announcement looking for volunteers. Ms. Weiner-Anstey added that volunteers could include Town department staff. Mr. Pena extended thanks to Ms. Weiner-Anstey and the Committee for their hard work. He noted that some good ideas have been shared. He also suggested that when the next Town newsletter comes out perhaps something could be included about Avon Day. The Town Manager responded that there is a newsletter going out next week and the next one will be in March/April. Mr. Pena commented that posting an announcement on the web site is a good idea but not everybody in Town receives the alerts and also ask the Board of Education to send something out in the Virtual Backpack.

Adam Lazinsk, 88 Deepwood Drive, commented on Avon Day and complimented Ms. Weiner-Anstey, Sharon Brummert, Laurie Rotondo, and other members of the Committee for the efforts they put into Avon Day. He added that Avon Day is not the success that it once was and cannot put a bunch of tents into a field for one afternoon and say that we are a community. He noted that unfortunately the way the Town is laid out we are a lot of dispersant neighborhoods. He added that we see people at little league games, football games, we run into people at the Farmer's Market. He commented that if the goal of Avon Day is to raise money for the Special Needs Fund then perhaps there are other avenues and events that can be done to support the

Fund. He added that the Town does a lot of things well; the Library has been very successful the last two summers with the Farmer's Market on Monday afternoons; perhaps change the day to a Saturday afternoon. He commented that the Town owns a few additional properties next to the Library; expand that out and do some activities there that perhaps the revenues can go to the Special Needs Fund. He noted that at the homecoming football game this past fall at the Avon High School he ran into Mr. Stokesbury, Mr. Zacchio and people that he had not seen in a while; that was a community event. He does not know if it is worth the effort any more to do Avon Day and only his opinion. He has also talked to Ms. Weiner-Anstey about this and not a comment against her or any other members, just his opinion.

VIII. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mrs. Maguire welcomed Mr. Speich and looks forward to working with him. She also thanked Mr. Pena for starting the Christmas Tree Lighting that took place last month; considering we had to change nights due to the weather it was well attended and a wonderful evening and a great tradition that he is starting in Town. She reported that Roaring Brook School playground is finally complete and extended a shout out to Public Works for helping with so many different pieces of this from start to finish and Elizabeth Abshire who has seen this project through from the beginning to the end and the Roaring Brook School community that was so involved with fundraising. She added that there might be a ribbon cutting ceremony in the spring.

Mr. Speich remarked that he looks forward to serving as Town Council for next two years and a continuation of what he has done before at the Board of Finance and he enjoys working with all of the community from the Town of Avon. Chairman Zacchio welcomed him and are glad to have him on the Council.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

13/14-48 Synthetic Field Project: 99 Thompson Road & Avon High School

Chairman Zacchio reported that tonight we will talk about what we heard at the Special Meeting we held in terms of what the public had to say about it and some of the input that we had and how we want to move forward from this point. He noted that the purpose of our last meeting was to get the community up to speed in terms of what our body of work has been so far on both the MH Rhodes site and Avon High School site, an opportunity to bring the Board of Education into that fold as well because they had not seen the presentation that would have put the field at the High School which is within their policies. He noted that we will want to partner with the Board of Education as we move forward and solicit their input and had suggested that we communicate through a letter and document out what we have done so far and try to collect that feedback before considering how to move forward with a site.

Chairman Zacchio commented that the overall the Special Meeting was a good meeting; a good opportunity to bring everybody into the fold in terms of what we were looking at and what some of the high level costs were and we heard a lot of feedback around how this might be managed and what the concerns were around what was ultimately presented that night. He took away that we want to be good neighbors no matter where that site is to the neighbors that surround it. He added that we heard a lot of feedback about the lights and the noise and we will have to have

strong policies in place in terms of how that operational aspect would look no matter what site we are at. He thanked Mrs. Checko for sharing data on how we would be using the synthetic turf field; it starts to spec out the kinds of times we would use it. He noted that how we would use it as a Town, when lights might be on or off, if they indeed become part of the project because they do not have to be. He commented that in the letter we asked the Board of Education for the same feedback, what did you hear, how do you think you want to move forward, and input on what Ms. Checko has already started to put together in terms of how might we use this and use it as a policy, especially at night where the most of the concern was around noise at night. He asked the Town Manager to talk to Farmington, Simsbury, and Granby who just put a field like this in and understand what they have in place today, what they have found has worked well for them, what they have found has not worked well and have adjusted on; take advantage of that and leverage some of the learnings that they have had already. He noted that all of them are within scopes of neighborhoods, typically where schools and fields like this are located, and we could learn a lot from them.

Mr. Pena commented that people want to make this work if it can work. He added that these people are our neighbors, our friends and that is really important. He noted that if the project goes forward he hopes that we could collectively come to a compromise that everybody will like. Mrs. Maguire commented that it is very important to be a good neighbor and Mr. McCoy has taken into account in his designs barriers so that not only the lighting but the sound hopefully will be somewhat toned down for the neighbors. She added that it will be a learning curve, but if we set out rules regarding street parking and being respectful of the area it will take a community involvement to make it successful. Mr. Stokesbury echoed most of the comments made. He added that after listening to the presentation it becomes clear that the Avon High School site has the cost efficiencies and does a lot for the school community but that is dependent on the support from the Board of Education and whether or not it is important to them. He noted that there is also concern about the aesthetics of the lights even with the way the fields at Avon High School are set down from West Avon Road it is still going to be an aesthetic issue. Mr. Speich commented that he understands the need for the fields, whatever facility is the best and most cost effective is important and also that we do not disturb the neighborhoods.

Chairman Zacchio asked the Town Manager to draft a letter to the Board of Education and invite them in as partners and walk through some of what Ms. Checko has already documented and it applies no matter what site we are talking about but also includes some of the feedback tonight around concerns and ideas we have. He assumed that if it was to be on the High School site that it would be governed by a Board policy and not a Town policy and is a nuisance difference from being on a Town property but would expect us both to be on the same page as Boards in terms of what that use might look like and the Board of Education who heard the same comments would agree that they want to be a good neighbor and would appreciate the same comments we are having here tonight. The Town Manager commented that this is different than how we normally do projects because we are very sensitive to the concerns of the abutters and this level of operational detail and planning is typically something you see post-referendum because on a pre-referendum basis you are at a conceptual level and have an 8-24 referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission to ensure compliance with the Plan of Conservation and Development and assuming there is compliance you go to referendum and if the project is approved that is when you get into site plan; in this case you would be looking at a site plan and a special exception which requires a public hearing. He added that he and Ms. Checko are looking at it from a

scenario that the referendum is approved and now are preparing the site plan and special permit applications. He commented that he would share the rough sketch in terms of the hours of operation that has been prepared to date by Ms. Checko in conjunction with Tim Filon and provide some other feedback with respect to operations of the site, making sure that concerns about port-a-toilets, access to lavatories, trash collection, what kind of PA system will be used and when it will be used are addressed. He noted that putting all of that into a letter to Gary Mala, Superintendent of Schools, to talk with the Board of Education about and ultimately get feedback. Chairman Zacchio reiterated that we do not have a project yet and is just a site consideration. He noted that each of the two sites have their own set of circumstances; the MH Rhodes site has its plan that has to be followed because you are building everything versus the High School site which has some variability involved regarding fields, lights, etc. He added that a lot of talk about policy is around night use and a change in what it has been used for today and that is where we need to be very sensitive. The Town Manager commented that how the High School is being used now and what the conceptual plan would be for using it if there were lights and being very clear about difference now versus the future.

Wendy Howard, Board of Education member, questioned if the costs that were presented at the December 7th meeting included if the fields were at MH Rhodes would we still have the cost of maintaining the fields at the High School and if the fields are at the High School that cost is the current cost of how we maintain the fields is eliminated. Chairman Zacchio responded that there is a netting effect at the High School because you are already taking care of those versus a new cost at MH Rhodes. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if that all is a Board cost now. Ms. Howard responded that this coming year we are combining the services so it would be a joint cost. Mr. Stokesbury commented that there is a long standing sharing of responsibility on the fields that varies over the summer.

Nicole Herbst, 110 Thompson Road, questioned what the next step is after sending a letter to the Board of Education. Chairman Zacchio responded that it depending on what the site is from a feedback perspective will drive how and if we move forward.

Adam Lazinsk, 88 Deepwood Drive, commented that the December 7th meeting was helpful for everyone that was in attendance and there was overwhelming support to do some sort of athletic complex regardless of location. He noted that it is a project to help the High School with their athletic fields and recognized that during the presentation Ms. Checko brought up from a Recreation and Parks perspective has a lot of need for additional space for all of these recreational leagues. He added that assuming that a complex was to be built at the High School he is not sure that all of these recreational leagues need to be played at the High School complex. He noted that the neighbors on Sudbury Way and West Avon Road were expressing their concern about over use into long hours of the evening so maybe as mentioned by Chairman Zacchio at the December 7th meeting that the Town has a "shovel ready project" to go for additional fields at Fisher Meadows and perhaps the compromise is that if it is done at the High School where it probably should be, the Town also do as a separate project whether at the same time or subsequent year all of those additional recreational fields at Fisher Meadows. He added that people living on Sudbury Way have an expectation of privacy and they should be able to live peaceably in their homes but on the other side they live next to a high school and if this project goes through then they are going to have to anticipate some minor inconveniences for some evenings in the fall. He commented that a lot of people want to see this move forward as

quickly as possible. Chairman Zacchio responded that this field does not satisfy the needs for all sports across the Town nor would we be able to fit them all at the High School and use it seven days a week as some had suggested. He noted that similar to the way the Town Council approached the Library project, if we decide to package a project like this together with other packages that we can easily look into the Master Recreation Plan to see what needs there are as build out happens in Town as we approach 21-22,000 people. He added that it would make sense to do it at one time if we have the opportunity and capacity to do that and something down the road as we develop a financial model. Mr. Lazinsk commented that a lot of discussion has been made over lighting and sound. He noted that several months he stood here and said the Town has one shot to do it the right way the first time and that includes lights so for it to be a successful project it is only logical that there be lights. He thinks lighting technology has advanced in such ways that there would not be a lot of issue about light pollution. He asked the Town to look at the recent project done at Countryside Park where Public Works put in lamp posts to illuminate the parking area and does not leech out beyond the parking lot so there are solutions out there. Chairman Zacchio also noted the lighting installed at the AMS tennis courts.

Chairman Zacchio asked the Town Manager to work on a draft letter and work with the Superintendent of Schools on what is important. Mr. Pena questioned when we would anticipate that coming back to us. The Town Manager responded that he could get something out within a week or so and from there it is up to the Board of Education and how quickly they process it. He will keep the Town Council informed. Chairman Zacchio commented that the Board of Education may need an opportunity to vet it and think through policy which is appropriate. The Town Manager will also let the Board of Education know they we can offer whatever resources are necessary to assist with their discussion.

Laura Young, 57 Hitchcock Lane, questioned how the Town Council plans to notify the abutters about the next steps. Chairman Zacchio responded that we have identified everybody in the neighborhoods and sending communication. He noted that we had a foul up with the letter regarding the December 7th meeting with residents living on the other side of the road but have since corrected that. Chairman Zacchio asked the Town Manager about how we move forward. He noted that there is nothing to report at this time, other than what he said at the December 7th meeting to get everybody on the same page and then ask the Board of Education in terms of their opinion and feedback so we can incorporate into a plan and decide how we might move forward. He added that until there is something substantive to go out he does not know how else we do it than a meeting like this. He noted that as we move forward with any project the abutter notification process should continue. The Town Manager responded that up until this point we have done far more than we have done in the past. Chairman Zacchio commented that we should continue to do that.

15/16-14 **FY 16/17 Budget: Town Council Budget Workshop Schedule:**
Recommended Date: Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the Budget Workshop Schedule for Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in the Selectmen's Chamber as follows:

- 8:00 a.m. Budget Overview
- 8:20 a.m. Library

8:40 a.m. Fire Department
9:00 a.m. Police Department
9:25 a.m. Break
9:40 a.m. Public Works
10:10 a.m. General Government
10:30 a.m. Public Safety (except Fire and Police)
10:50 a.m. Health/Social Services
11:10 a.m. Recreation & Parks
11:30 a.m. Conservation & Development
11:50 a.m. Lunch
12:20 p.m. Engineering / Sewers
12:40 p.m. Special Revenue funds / Capital Improvement Program
1:00 p.m. Adjustments, wrap-up – Adjourn

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-24 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2015)

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-24 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2015) to the February 4, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-25 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (U - 12/31/2018)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-25 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (U – 12/31/2018) to the February 4, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

X. NEW BUSINESS

15/16-31 Supplemental Appropriation: Board of Education, \$393,000

Chairman Zacchio reported that the requested supplemental appropriation from the Board of Education is for CHOICE Education money coming back into the system and by Statute the money stays within the system which means it comes in through the Town, the Town makes a supplemental appropriation recommending it be allocated back into the Board of Education's budget and the Board of Finance takes that action item and completes the transaction.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 15/16 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Intergovernmental, Education Programs Grant, Account #01-0330-43343, in the amount of \$393,000 and increasing

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Board of Education, BOE Expenses, Account #01-9401-55000, in the amount of \$393,000, for the purpose of providing special education tuition, professional development and personal services for the District.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-32 Memorandum of Understanding with Board of Education: Shared Services

Chairman Zacchio reported that the Town and Board of Education are collaborating, as we have done in the past, on resources and finding ways to utilize the expertise we have in-house whether it be on the Town or Board of Education side to accomplish some of the work that needs to be done. He added that this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a gateway into more services that we can crossover together.

The Town Manager reported that this MOU formalizes an arrangement that we have had for about a year now. He noted that various times have come up where the Town has used either the HVAC Technician or the Electrician that is employed by the Board of Education and we found it to be tremendously beneficial because we can use resources that are in-house versus hiring a private contractor at a cost that is multiple of what this would cost. He reported that the MOU includes the amount that the Town will reimburse the Board of Education in terms of cost per hour for these purposes, language about how we deal with issues including overtime when the services of the HVAC Technician or Electrician are required after hours and how to deal with increases on a yearly basis. He added that we gave it a road test prior to formalizing to ensure that it was going to be something that made sense and is pleased to bring this forward as it is a good start.

Mr. Stokesbury commented that years ago he served on the joint services task force committee that was appointed from all three Boards. He noted that this is one of the steps that we were hoping could come through and quite pleased that it has and another small step moving forward. He added that earlier this year we took a big step with the Fire Training Facility. He noted that it is good to see that we can do this, both within the Town and perhaps even more importantly continuing the trend with Farmington.

Chairman Zacchio commented that usually around budget time we quantify all of the shared services we engage in whether it is external to Avon with other communities where we share the Animal Control Officer, Assessor, or other services and also internally as we work collaboratively with the other Boards. The Town Manager responded that he will have that summary for Council shortly. He noted that the Office of Policy and Management used to have an intergovernmental relations division that did a good job of compiling this across all the towns and cities in the State and at one point Avon was in the top five so we have a long tradition of doing that and will continue to do it. Mr. Pena commented that hopefully we continue to be at the top as we do a lot of shared services.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avon Board of Education (the “Board”) and the Town of Avon (“Town”) with respect to the wages and conditions of employment for the shared services of licensed maintainers employed

by the Board dated January 4, 2016.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-33 Athletic Fields Advertising Policy

Chairman Zacchio commented that there has been a lot of interest among the sports community, especially the baseball community, over the last few years around advertising on the fields and making it look more like a big park. He noted that we visit a number of fields that engage in this including Farmington at Tunxis Meade. He thanked Ms. Checko, Director of Recreation and Parks, for taking the time to put together a policy to ponder and/or approve as we forward.

Ms. Checko commented that the Buckingham Recreation Area was part of the subdivision that was of little cost to the Town and a blank slate with fields, fencing, and not a lot of amenities. She reported that Bob Emery with Avon Baseball had approached Glenn Marston and herself about a potential way of raising funds that would help improve those facilities, specifically the baseball field. She added that Mr. Emery presented a sponsorship program. She and the Town Manager worked extensively with the Town Attorney with the Community Planner and Finance Director as well as the Recreation and Parks Committee to fine tune this proposed policy that has fees that are in accordance with Chapter 41 Code of Ordinances. She noted that they would like to see uniform, tasteful advertising signs placed on the fence line at the baseball field at Buckingham. She added that one of the unforeseen consequences was that Avon Little League was already doing it on their own and doing it very well. She reported that part of the proposed policy has respected their use of their funds from their advertising policy but asking them that in the future the proposed policy would pertain to them too and would have to come through the application process, pay the permit fee of \$25 that is being recommended and understood that we are grandfathering what they are doing as far as keeping their own revenues. She added that we are going to manage the program a little more at Buckingham because Avon Baseball do not have the resources that the Avon Little League has to market, get the signs, hang them, etc. She noted that for Buckingham the Town will work with Mr. Emery and once the application and sign process has been done we would approve it through the Recreation and Parks Committee and then Public Works would install and remove the signs and store them. Chairman Zacchio questioned what the fees go into. Ms. Checko responded that the permitting fee might go into the General Fund and we are going to establish a Special Revenue Fund that the donations would go into and any improvements that were made to that field out of that Fund would be managed and overseen by the Town and could be capital or operating improvements and work hand in hand with the baseball group for their input and what they need. She gave an example of the batting cage that we put in; the Avon High School baseball coach, Mr. Emery, Bruce Williams, Director of Public Works, and herself met out there several times and asked them what they want, how long, etc. but ultimately it was our project to manage. The Town Manager clarified that the permitting fee would also go into the Special Revenue Fund. Chairman Zacchio commented that all funds associated to the advertising will be available to that league for improvements, capital or operating. The Town Manager commented that Ordinance 41 deals with prohibited activities in public places and a few of those can be approved by a permit so this is the application to receive the permit and the language that is included in the policy is lifted out of the Ordinance so it is consistent. Chairman Zacchio asked Wendy Howard if there is a similar policy with the Board of Education. Ms. Howard responded that she did not think that the Board of Education has a policy.

Chairman Zacchio questioned if this is something that would apply to just Town fields. The Town Manager responded yes. Ms. Howard commented that in the past the Board of Education has referred to the Town policy. Ms. Checko noted that we specifically reference Sperry Park and Buckingham in the policy. Mr. Stokesbury commented that this is only for the baseball field at Buckingham and only the baseball fields at Sperry Park and not applicable to two other fields at Buckingham. Ms. Checko responded that was discussed but at this point we wanted to look at this as a pilot program, see how it goes, if there is interest on the lacrosse side and next year revisit the fees, the terms, and see if there is any interest to put them on the lacrosse fields or not. Mr. Stokesbury questioned signs at Fisher Meadows. Ms. Checko responded that Fisher Meadows is pretty visible for the street so it would be subject to the Planning and Zoning regulation for signage so we steered away from that. Mr. Stokesbury commented that is one of the issues at school properties. Mrs. Maguire commented that it is very residential near Buckingham and wondered how the neighbors would feel about the advertising. Ms. Checko responded that from the parking lot to the baseball field she does not think they will be visible at all. Chairman Zacchio commented that the signs will be on the outfield fence facing the Landfill. Mr. Pena commented that the signs will be put up by Public Works. He questioned that in the event that the signs are damaged what happens. Ms. Checko responded that there is verbiage in the policy that says we will take it down and it is at the owner's expense that they repair/replace it and return it to us to be rehung.

Mr. Speich asked as a matter of background about the baseball organizations. Ms. Checko reported that depending on the age groups, this is the only regulation size Town baseball field for Babe Ruth and up. She noted that the "little guys" play at Sperry Park with Avon Little League and older boys play at Buckingham or Avon High School. Mr. Speich questioned if they are two separate organizations from a financial standpoint. Ms. Checko responded that they are pretty separate but some overlap in scheduling and organizing. Mr. Speich questioned how they would share the funds once they go into the Special Revenue Fund if there are two separate organizations. Ms. Checko responded that the funds would not be shared because Little League does not play at Buckingham; once the boys move from that size field they only play at Buckingham and move on to Babe Ruth or Legion. Chairman Zacchio commented that Avon Little League has its own Board of Directors and are very solid. Mr. Stokesbury commented that Babe Ruth is a subset. Chairman Zacchio commented that on the Buckingham field you have Avon Baseball and Legion and questioned if sign advertising would be open to any of those teams. Ms. Checko responded that anyone who is involved in any of those leagues would have an interest in advertising. Mr. Speich asked as a matter of background if both of those fields are maintained by the Town of Avon. Ms. Checko responded that both Sperry Park and Buckingham are. Chairman Zacchio commented that this will be a pilot program and something to build off of and revisit in a year. He added that it has been a long time coming and some Avon baseball folks have been very anxious to have this become a reality. He thanked Ms. Checko for putting in the work.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the Athletic Fields Advertising Program Policy for Sperry Park and Buckingham as presented.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-34 **Appointments**

On a motion made by Mr. Zacchio, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Jeff Bernetich to the Board of Finance to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Linda H. Keith, Peter Mahoney, and Joseph Gentile, appoint Mary Harrop and Brian Ladouceur (both effective February 1st) to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Elaine G. Primeau as alternate members to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017 and table two vacancies (2-R) with the same term to the February 4, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Michael R. Beauchamp, Robert H. Breckinridge, Jr., and Louis N. Usich, III to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Zacchio, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Donald R. Droppo, Jr., David A. Jadovich, Peter J. Ponziani, and Todd Donovan, appoint Kelly Jackson to the Recreation & Parks Committee for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017 and table two vacancies (2-R) with the same term to the February 4, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Thomas Armstrong and Eric C. Johansen to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2019 and table the vacancy (1-U) to the February 4, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Thomas C. McNeill, Jr. and appoint Ames Shea and Andrew Bloom as alternate members to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Eric Johansen, James H. Eacott, III, William A. Ferrigno, Dana Hinman, and Paul C. Magro to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a

four-year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Zacchio, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Alfred Smith as Town Attorney for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Zacchio, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Murtha Cullina LLP as Assistant Town Attorney for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Zacchio, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint James R. McCarthy as Town Treasurer for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Citizens Bank, Commerce Bank, Connecticut State Treasury's Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF), Farmington Bank, First Niagara Bank, HSBC Bank USA, N.A., Liberty Bank, Northwest Community Bank, People's United Bank, Santander Bank, N.A., Simsbury Bank & Trust Co., TD Bank, N.A., United Bank, Wachovia Bank, N.A., Webster Bank, N.A., and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as the Town's Depository of Town Funds for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint USI as the Town's Insurance Agent of Record for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Mark Rinaldo, Police Chief to the North Central EMS for a two-year term to expire in December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Lawrence Baril – Transportation and Brandon Robertson – Municipal Services as CRCOG Committee Representatives for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Linda H. Keith – Town Council Representative and David M. Cappello – Alternate to the CRCOG Regional Planning Commission for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Mark W. Zacchio – Member, Richard W. Hines – Alternate, and Brandon Robertson – Alternate to the CRCOG Policy Board for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Mark Rinaldo, Police Chief as Town Council Representative on the CRCOG Public Safety Council for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Elaine G. Primeau and Stephen Vicino to the Plainville Area Cable Area Television Advisory Council for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Zacchio, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Nancy Weiner-Anstey to the Central Regional Tourism District for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Mark W. Zacchio – Member and Brandon Robertson – Alternate on the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Legislative Committee for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Zacchio, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Marissa Walls to the North Central Regional Mental Health Board for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Leonard DelGallo, Jr. and Robert M. Propiescus, Jr. as Town Constables for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Gary Greene – Lakeview Association, Caroline LaMonica – Senior Citizen, Mary C. Harrop – VNA, and Jamie DiPace – Avon Volunteer Fire Department as Town Council Representatives for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017 and table the vacancy to the Secret Lake Association to the February 4, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint the Farmington Valley Health District – Avon Health Department, Jennifer Kertanis, Director, Brandon Robertson – Town Council Representative, and Maura Shea – Town Council Representative to the Farmington Valley Health District for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Zacchio, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Alan Rosenberg as the Town's Municipal Agent for the Elderly for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Zacchio, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Candice Chirgotis to the Wild & Scenic River Study Committee for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017 and table the vacancy (1-R) to the February 4, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Lori Stanczyk – Parent/Community Member, Debra Steremberg – Parent/Community Member, Susan Alexe – Youth Services Professional, Heather Toyen – School Advisor, and Mark Rinaldo – Police Chief to the Youth Services Advisory Board for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017 and table two vacancies (2-R) to the February 4, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Jeffrey Macel, Mitchell Kennedy, Brian Glenn, Martin Kaplan, Richard Kretz, Joseph Gentile, and Bernard Zahren and Jonathan Craig – Advisory Member to the Avon Clean Energy Commission for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

Mr. Stokesbury recognized all of the volunteers that have served in the past and have agreed to serve going forward; the Town benefits greatly from their service and deserve our thanks. Chairman Zacchio commented that we send a letter to those who are not serving any longer, have chosen not to be reappointed or have resigned for whatever reason.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager reported that there is a lot of activity underway. He reported that in April last year Council appointed a Building Committee to work on the Middle School science classroom project; the Committee prepared an RFP for architectural services, did interviews and have recommended that Friar Associates be appointed to prepare the schematic drawings. He noted that the Building Committee was empowered to

contract with an architect so it does not require Council appointment. He added that there is funding in FY 15/16 for Phase 1 and we are including funding in FY 16/17 to complete the project. Mr. Stokesbury commented that first floor work can be done during the school year and upstairs labs are being done next year.

The Town Manager reported that we put an RFP out for the radio system upgrade; we received responses and there is a Committee working on this, looking at radios on a Town-wide basis so it includes representation from the Police Department, Fire Department, and Public Works. He noted that this will be another recommended capital project in FY 16/17 to continue with this, probably \$100,000 to maintain the existing system and if not necessary we can roll it into a future capital project.

The Town Manager reported that we advertised the Old Wheeler Lane Bridge Project and have bids due on January 13th. He noted that it will also be in the capital budget for FY 16/17.

The Town Manager highlighted future activities. He noted that we have some STEAP funding that we are preparing to spend this spring with a bid out in February to continue with the sidewalks and lighting upgrades on the east side of Route 10 heading north. He noted that there is another STEAP funding round coming out with applications due next week and we will try again for our sidewalk project on West Avon Road. Chairman Zacchio commented that we still have that in the capital line-up if it does not come through with the STEAP funding. The Town Manager responded that he is not sure how far it will get us. He added that we have \$20,000 in capital for FY 16/17 and the application for STEAP funding will be for \$450,000 so if it is done on a capital basis we will do it piece meal. Chairman Zacchio questioned if that is concrete versus bituminous. The Town Manager responded that would be concrete for both. Chairman Zacchio commented that we might want to talk about that in February in terms of whether we think STEAP is going to come through and what our confidence rating is in terms of what our capital budget looks like for next year and what we know needs to be repaired. Mr. Speich asked if STEAP is State funding that the Town gets. The Town Manager responded yes, it is the Small Town Economic Assistance Program and the funding that we have used for all of the Avon Center improvements (sidewalks, granite curbing, and lighting) and are on Phase IV or V right now. He added that the STEAP funding is awarded on a competitive basis, although as long as communities meet the basic guidelines of the program the State tries to spread it out. Chairman Zacchio commented that because of the type of grant it has to be tied to an economic value.

The Town Manager reported that we have completed an RFP document for auditing services. He added that the Board of Finance is responsible for appointing the independent auditors. He noted that we have gone through a couple of iterations on this document and in final draft form. He added that this was discussed with the Board of Finance at their last meeting and it is most likely to be advertised towards the end of this month. He reported that we will go through our process and if it is Blum Shapiro to continue or new auditors they would be appointed effective July 1, 2016.

The Town Manager reported that there is a bid going out for the Paper Chase/Hurdle Fence sanitary sewer project that is being managed through the Engineering Department. He noted that we are continuing to monitor the progress on the two fire apparatus. He added that we are also continuing to work on the loading issue at Company #4. He reported that he, Jamie DiPace

(Town Council Representative for AVFD), and Bruce Williams (Director of Public Works) are meeting to discuss, we have feedback from the structural engineer and we are dialing in a solution.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager reported that the Sycamore pool project is coming along and is looking great. Chairman Zacchio commented that it turned out to be a much more major project than we anticipated once we got into it. The Town Manager reported that we have made a lot of improvements at Buckingham over the last year, primarily with the funding that we included in capital and will continue to work on the hillside issue and you will see funding in the Public Works budget to rent the mower for that area. He added that we want to find a more long-term solution for this. Mr. Stokesbury asked the Town Manager to watch the scheduling on the mowing as the baseball field is actively used all summer. Chairman Zacchio commented that we need to do something with the bank longer term because it looks terrible but might we treat the weed growth in terms of extended netting that could go up behind that backstop to keep foul balls on the field. The Town Manager commented that might be an excellent use of the funding we are going to generate through the advertising. Mrs. Maguire commented that at the playground at Buckingham there is a hole in the fence back by the Landfill and asked for it to be fixed. The Town Manager reported on the Library geo-thermal system which is buttoned up for the season; we had the insurance carrier contract with the third party to look at the system and we are waiting for the report and will give us an idea of what's next. He noted that the heating system is functioning; the issue is that it is not functioning optimally because the balance is not correct but we will be fine for the winter.

Misc. C: Avon Village Center: The Town Manager reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission has approved the Avon Village Center Concept Plan and approved approximately ten pages of conditions that will set the framework for the site plan approval. He noted that he and Hiram Peck, Town Planner, want to get a presentation together that provides an outline of the project and take it on the road to the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and educate the public. He added that the presentation should be ready for February and will be presented at the next Council meeting. He noted that there are some very interesting elements of the Plan in terms of the Town acquiring open space in the area of Design District #1 just to the east of Ensign Drive where the big oak tree is with benches around it and will become a focal point for the development and become a nice park. He added that there is a new Avon Center Village that will be in Design District #2. He noted that the developer, Carpionato Group, is really excited about this project and looking at different architects to work with. He added that they are talking about setting up their office in Avon Park North and they closed on a good portion of the property just before the holiday and will be getting their site plan and special permit application for the Planning and Zoning Commission to review.

Wendy Howard, Board of Education member, questioned what the housing is going to be like at the Avon Village Center. The Town Manager responded that there will be approximately four hundred units which is consistent with the original conceptual plan that was approved in 2012. He noted that when this application originally came in it was not exactly what we anticipated because there was much more commercial space and not as much housing. He added that anticipated in crafting the original regulation that it was going to be in the other direction and why we set up ratios so there could only be so much housing until you built "x" amount of commercial space. He reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved conditions

that provide for approximately four hundred units and the basic footprint is fixed on the conceptual plan but all of the details about facades are still in the work. Ms. Howard questioned if the units will be rentals and not condominiums. The Town Manager responded it will likely be a combination. Ms. Howard questioned if they will be 2-bedroom, 3-bedroom, etc. The Town Manager responded that it will be a combination. Chairman Zacchio commented that he expects the units will probably be high rent. The Town Manager responded that he does not think there is any component that is “affordable” and more market rate. Chairman Zacchio commented that he took a look at all of the apartments in Avon and what the ratio is of the number of units to the number of kids and was surprised that it was as low as he thought it was. He would share the data with Ms. Howard.

Misc. D: Old Farms Road – Feasibility Study: The Town Manager reported that Larry Baril, Town Engineer, has been working with our Project Consultant, C&C Engineers, and he expects to have a draft ready to talk with Council about in February.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Collective Bargaining
Pending Claim/Litigation
Land Acquisition

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

The Town Manager, Town Clerk, Mark Rinaldo (Police Chief), and Mike Harrington (Labor Attorney) attended the session. Member Stokesbury recused himself from the Land Acquisition item as he represents one of the near abutters to the property under discussion.

XII. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Speich voted in favor.

Attest:

Ann L. Dearstyne, Town Clerk